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Community asked to help 1462nd Transportation Unit by donating items during first Care Package Drive *Donations can be dropped off at Howell Armory*

LANSING-State Senator Valde Garcia, R-Howell, has teamed with local veteran's organizations and the 1462nd Transportation Company's Family Readiness Group to organize a care package drive. The group is asking the community to support their local military personnel who are currently deployed in Iraq, by donating items including clothing, food and books. The inaugural drive will be held on Monday, May 3 from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Howell Armory, located at 725 Isbell Road, Howell.

"Unless you have experienced it, words can not adequately describe what it feels like to be away from your family while deployed," said Garcia. "I remember from my time while serving in support of Desert Storm that it can be very distracting worrying about your family that you leave behind, but having to face the unknown without the some of the simple comforts of home. Luxuries that soldiers miss are simple, like decks of playing cards or Kool Aide."

The Family Readiness Group, Rolling Thunder, American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars groups throughout Livingston County and Senator Garcia's office have established a Howell Care Package Drive Committee. The group intends to host various collection drives throughout the 1462^{nd's} tour of duty.

Additional collection locations include:

- Hamburg VFW Post 1224, 8891 Spicer Road, Hamburg
- Brighton VFW Post 4357, 10590 Grand River Ave., Brighton
- Howell American Legion Post 141, 3265 W. Grand River, Howell

Items may be donated at these locations during normal business hours.

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Items needed:

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| 1. Sunscreen (Alcohol free) | 21. Sunglasses |
| 2. Chap stick | 22. Ramen noodles |
| 3. Gator Aide (powder form) | 23. Pop-top cans of food |
| 4. Sports magazines | 24. Juice boxes |
| 5. Playing cards | 25. Chips/pretzels |
| 6. Pens | 26. Hot sauce packets |
| 7. Paper | 27. Travel games (new and used) |
| 8. DVD's (no adult content permitted) | 28. Disposable cameras |
| 9. CD's (no adult content permitted) | 29. Beef Jerky (100% Grade-A beef) |
| 10. Candy (not chocolate) | 30. Baby wipes |
| 11. Gum | 31. Baby powder |
| 12. Band-Aids | 32. Toothbrushes |
| 13. Children's books (new and used) | 33. Liquid soap |
| 14. Books (new and used) | 34. Non-aerosol deodorant |
| 15. New T-shirts | 35. Feminine hygiene items |
| 16. New Shorts | 36. Envelopes |
| 17. Shampoo | 37. Foot powder |
| 18. Toothpaste | |
| 19. Dental floss | |
| 20. Contact solution | |

Financial donations are also being accepted to help defray the cost for mailing the care packages. Checks may be dropped-off at any of the collection sites. All monetary donations are tax deductible.

Care packages will be assembled once the unit has been assigned an address. For more information about items being collected, please contact Senator Garcia's office at (800) 516-0026.

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